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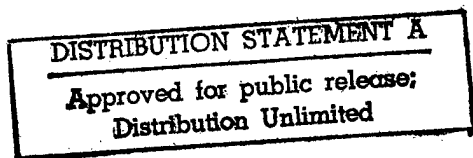
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"DOD and the Environment"

**Address of
The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology
Honorable Paul G. Kaminski**

to the

**American Defense Preparedness Association
22nd Annual Environmental Symposium
Kissimmee, Florida**

March 19, 1996

It is a great pleasure to be with you this morning and share some of my views on where I think the Department of Defense is headed in Environmental Security.

Although our record has been mixed in the past, the Department is on a well established path to becoming good stewards of the environment. We're putting greater emphasis on bringing advanced technology to bear on the environmental challenges in front of us. It's not an experiment or a demonstration -- we're in it for the long haul because it makes good sense--to the environment and to military readiness.

Last year, I had the pleasure of speaking at this conference and discussed the Defense Science Board Task Force results. This year, I will talk about the relevance of environmental security to acquisition policy and procedures.

Four weeks ago Deputy Secretary of Defense, John White, signed the first ever DoD directive which established a comprehensive policy on environmental security. DoD did that to ensure that environmental factors would be incorporated into all our decision-making processes and to make sure that when we make decisions, which are obviously based on national security interests, that we do not forget the environment.

My major responsibility covers several areas. But there are three I would like to highlight today: the first is readiness; second, quality of life, making sure that the military and civilians in the Department of Defense have what they need and have the opportunity that they deserve; and third -- growing in importance -- is modernization.

That is, making sure that going into the future we are providing the capabilities and resources that are needed to modernize our forces and be assured that in the next century we continue to have a very strong military.

We do try to take care of these three fundamental, overarching efforts with the environment in mind, and I think, it is very important that we do so. With respect to readiness, for example, we are dedicated to the principle that while we need the facilities that we have -- and the land, and sea, and air that we use for our training -- that we, in fact, do so as a steward and complement our training in a way to ensure that it is environmentally friendly.

The DoD has responsibility for some 25 million acres of diverse public land and we need to make sure as we use that land for training that, in fact, we take care of the environment at the same time. So we need to do realistic training and at the same time preserve the land.

As many of you know, in the old days aboard ship what you did was throw everything over the side. We don't do that anymore. Today, we bring back those things that are not biodegradable. For example, the Navy melts and crushes plastics on board ship for resale or use at port.

That was one example. Let me give you another example of a different sort. In the past, DoD used a combination of solvents and sand to remove paint from ships and aircraft. Now, we use a plastic bead blaster. The bead blaster shoots out plastic beads, water and a non-toxic soap to remove the paint chips. All the stripping components can be reused and the only hazardous disposal is of the paint chips. Rather than have a run-off of a lot of sand and solvents that could harm the environment, we've done something smart in terms of making sure that we have something that's reusable. This substitute is cheaper and more efficient.

We're also substituting citrus-based cleaners for solvents in the cleaning of computer circuit boards -- lemon juice in some cases. We were worried about the same sorts of issues as we clean engine parts, for example, to make sure that we separate petroleum from the water so that it can be collected and not seep into the ground. We're using substitutes for the hard cleaners we used to use, to make sure that it is safer and cheaper. And, we're finding that through this remarkable resource management it does not impede our readiness. In fact, in some ways, it enhances our readiness.

That's also true with respect to quality of life. Quality of life for us means making sure, in the long run, that all our people have what they need. And we often talk about that in terms of direct compensation or in terms of housing or in terms of medical support and so on. One critical part of that is making sure that our people live in safe and hospitable environments and that means we have to pay attention and do what has to be done.

Another important aspect is reflected in the relationship we have with our communities. If we do not have a good relationship with the communities -- in many

dimensions -- then we will not be successful in terms of our overall mission. And in this case, we need to -- as we've done with Restoration Advisory Boards -- have a working relationship with people from the community who are committed to the environment; who recognize the military as a partner. And together we can improve what we're doing and expand our capabilities.

In this regard, two weeks ago, DoD became the first federal agency to release its annual Toxic Release Inventory. The TRI report identifies the toxic materials that we're using and provides communities with information on what we're doing. The identification of these materials allows us to focus our efforts in pollution reduction and cost avoidance.

One of the important steps my office is taking is to reduce life cycle costs associated with new and fielded systems. Significant environmental costs are embedded in the life cycle cost of our weapons systems.

For example, in the Army pilot study on the Army Sense and Destroy Armor (or SADARM) program, environmental costs were determined to be 11% of the production phase, 16% of the development and testing phase, 30% during tactical training, 33% of logistical support and 59% range operations.

These costs are the result of environmental reporting, accidents and spills, testing and evaluation, treatment and disposal, permits, worker safety, personnel protective equipment and management of hazardous materials. Our ability to identify these costs early in the acquisition process is crucial. We have launched a systematic, Joint Program on Pollution Prevention to identify and deal with embedded environmental costs early in development and production.

Currently, the Services are focusing on costs of painting and depainting.

Texas Instruments, through a partnership with the Joint Group on Acquisition Pollution Prevention on Depot Maintenance, developed alternatives to high volatile organic compound paints.

Finally, with respect to the future, as we begin to acquire new systems, we are also particularly sensitive to the fact that we need to be environmentally responsible. Last year, I announced that DoD was adopting a commercial standard, known as the National Aerospace Standard 411. This standard reduces or eliminates hazardous waste. There was no government standard, so we decided that we would step up and accept the commercial standard. This gives contractors a framework for identifying, managing, and minimizing or eliminating hazardous waste materials as they develop our equipment and capabilities.

In the old days, for example on a C-5, we would have used as many as 3,000 ozone depleting chemicals. On the new weapons system, the F-22, we used -- 1. And so, we've made great strides and people are very proud of that success.

That example has been mentioned to me several times over the last year as people have pointed out the kinds of activities that are important to us. In fact, one of our facilities in Louisville won a national award as an innovator on just these kinds of ozone depleting chemicals last year, which was presented by Vice President Gore.

SUMMARY

So, in summary, we think our environmental security program goes part-in parcel and hand-in-hand with our overall efforts with respect to readiness, quality of life, and force modernization.

We're committed to preventing pollution; to being innovative in the way we utilize technologies; to complying with all federal laws and regulations; to conserving natural and cultural resources; to cleaning up toxic waste; to being a good partner with our communities and, therefore, being a leader in terms of environmental issues on into the future.

I want to thank you for all your leadership and for your participation with us as responsible stewards of the environment. Thank you very much.